



“Feminists Want System Change, Not Climate Change: In Search of a Decolonial feminist global Green New Deal”

**Wednesday, 15 July 2020
9:00am EDT/ 15 pm CEST**

**Part of a series of action-oriented dialogues on the macro agendas and the current crises:
Macro Solutions for Women, the People and the Planet**

**Webinar by
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development**

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ycualwj4>

Speakers:

Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies,
UNCTAD

Bhumika Muchhala, Advocate and Activist on International Political Economy of
Inequality, Rights and Justice

Joan Carling, Indigenous activist, Co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for
Sustainable Development

Respondent:

Nadja Charaby, Senior Advisor on Climate Politics, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung

Moderator:

Emilia Reyes, Program Director, Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family
Co-Convenor, Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development

The Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) is an alliance of women’s organizations and networks who advocate for the advancement of women’s human rights and gender equality in the Financing for Development related UN processes.

Co-Convenors:

Rosa Lizarde, Global Director, Feminist Task Force, Global Director; rosa.lizarde@feministtaskforce.org

Emilia Reyes, Program Director, Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development, at Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family; emilia@equidad.org.mx

The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung is one of the six major political foundations in the Federal Republic of Germany, tasked primarily with conducting civic education both at home and abroad. The Foundation promotes a critical analysis of society and fosters networks of emancipatory political, social and cultural initiatives around Germany. Internationally, it participates in cooperative development projects and advocates for a dialogue between the Global North and South conducted on equal footing.

Concept Note:

2020 is shaping up to be one of the warmest years on record – if not the warmest. Climate change continues to bring massive destruction of lives and livelihoods, from the enormous bushfires in Australia and the Amazon, the flash floods in Brazil and Indonesia and heavy rains in Pakistan, to the locust swarms in Africa and many other effects of severely degraded ecosystems. The current pandemic crisis is a sneak preview of the magnitude and severity of impacts if the climate emergency is not addressed at its core.

The climate crisis is rooted in an exploitative process that further increases multi-layered inequalities, as its impacts hit hardest on the already-vulnerable populations – those who had done the least to contribute to the crisis. As feminists and climate justice activists, we recognize that as we take from the earth to produce and consume, we also take resources, lands and rights from others to enable this process.

Concerns are high that the fight against climate change has seemingly been put on the back burner, with the postponement of this year's annual high-level UN climate talks. But conversations are happening within.

the UN system and other policy forums on the need to ensure 'climate-positive recovery' in the stimulus and recovery packages that governments are considering. These should include actions that promote green jobs, just transition, bailout for companies to be aligned with the Paris climate goals, building resilience, and international cooperation and solidarity.

With forecasts of a prolonged recession, finance and investments are critical to any discussion around climate-positive recovery. Discussions are happening among governments and multilateral institutions on the need for a 'whole of financial system' collaboration, where the role of international financial institutions as well as development and regional banks would be crucial in providing concessional finance. These, together with strategies that promote systems-wide transformations towards green, clean, inclusive and sustainable pathways with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement, are presented as the 'solid blueprints' for economic recovery while addressing climate change. But are these, really?

Social movements and civil society have long rallied behind calls for systemic changes to address the climate breakdown at its core, encompassing modes of production and consumption practices to be compatible with the limits of the planet, and aimed at meeting people's needs and not the relentless pursuit of profit. This would entail progressive shifts of the world's economic, financial and political architectures away from fossil fuels and other harmful and extractive industries and reorienting these towards systems that embody solidarity, regeneration and equity.

There are a number of initiatives and proposals that articulate how such transitions to achieve climate justice may happen. They go by different labels like Just Transitions, Feminist Green New Deal, Buen Vivir and many others that offer not just a holistic critique of why the current dominant economic system does not work for people and planet, but also of the rationale and process for the comprehensive transformation of said system.

How do we push the envelope and find the macro points of entry to advocate for systemic changes and push for a decolonial, feminist global green new deal? How can just and equitable transitions be financed?

Suggested readings:

[UNCTAD Report on Green New Deal](#)

[Feminist Green New Deal](#)

[UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'](#)

[Change Finance, Not the Climate](#)